

Subject: Irish gun-money collection

MacIlwaine, I.B.S.
(Caledon, Co. Tyrone,
Ireland)

1919

OFFICE OF
THE CURATOR

TELEPHONE
AUDUBON 2484



MUSEUM OPEN
10 - 5, WEEK-DAYS
1 - 5, SUNDAYS
LIBRARY OPEN
10 - 5, WEEK-DAYS

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY, BETWEEN 155TH
AND 156TH STREETS
NEW YORK

From
J. B. C. MacHwain
Annaghroe House
County Tyrone, Ireland
Secretary,
American Numismatic Society,
New York.

May 22nd, 1919..

Dear Sir,

When in New York in 1910 I paid many visits to your collection and had the pleasure of meeting Miss Baldwin..

As I am getting on in life I have come to live in the country and with a view to getting things in order have decided to sell my collection of Gun-money (James 2nd Crowns, halfcrowns, shillings and sixpenses,) in all some 78 specimens, of this number 42 are varieties not in the cabinet of the Royal Irish Academy, (proof of this I hold in writing from that body) consequently as that collection is the finest Irish Collection in the world the pieces in question are extremely rare.

Gun-money is now very hard to get.

As a body like the R. I. C. moves very slowly I will probably be in my grave before anything definite could be done, in the circumstances, therefore, I am writing to know if your Society will care to entertain the question of purchase, if so how it is to be arranged, have you any representative in London?

I am, Yours very truly,

June 13th, 1919

Mr. J. B. S. MacIlvrain
Annaghra House
Caledon, Co. Tyrone
Ireland

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of May 22nd at hand. It would be hard to say whether our Society would be interested in your collection of Gun money without more detail and especially the price.

Although the Society has very little money to spend, particularly during the past few years, we can sometimes interest some of our members in the purchase of collections. This; however, is more difficult lately than formerly. If you can give us more details I will lay the proposition before one of our members who may be interested. Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Very truly,

Curator

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June 25th, 1919.

Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, New York..

Dear Sir,

I beg to thank you for your letter of 13th instant and in reply desire to point out my collection of Gurmoney consists of 80 pieces, crowns, half-crowns, shillings and six-pences, 42 of the pieces are unknown varieties for which I am asking two pounds each (£2.0.0) for the other 38 coins one pound each (£1.0.0) this amounts to £122.0.0 sterling, but any person taking the entire collection can have the 80 coins for £110.

Very truly yours,

July 29, 1919.

I. D. S. Mac Ilwaine,
Annaghroe House,
Caledon, Co. Tyrone.

My dear Mr. Mac Ilwaine:-

Your letter of June 25th arrived after our Curator, Mr. Wood, had gone upon his vacation. However, following written instructions from him I am sending you a letter to one of our members, now in Paris, who might be interested in purchasing the collection and presenting it to our Museum.

Our financial resources are such as make us dependent upon gifts of this nature for all important additions to our cabinet. Hoping that we may be able to acquire your collection, I am

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the Curator.

September 16th, 1919.

Mr. J. B. S. MacIlwaine,
Annaghroe House,
Caladon, Co. Tyrone,
Ireland.

My dear Sir:-

After corresponding with two or three of our members who we thought might possibly purchase your collection of gun money, we have been unable to interest any one or group in this purchase. We are very sorry as the Museum would very much like to acquire these pieces. The delay in answering was unavoidable because two of our members are now in Europe.

I beg to thank you most sincerely for the offer of this collection and trust that you will be able to sell it advantageously.

Yours very truly,

Curator.